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Cuban Exile Group Says It Killed 'El Tigre'

Miami

A Cuban exile terrorist group called Zero claimed responsibility yesterday for the death of a controversial refugee blown to pieces as he switched on the ignition of his car in Miami last week.

It was the second exile killing Zero said it had carried out in the past 18 months in the Miami area.

"The secret organization Zero is responsible for the slaying of Rolando Masferrer Rojas on the morning of October 31," said a statement mailed to the Miami office of the Associated Press.

Masferrer, 56, nicknamed "El Tigre", for his own terrorist exploits in Cuba during the Batista dictatorship, had been a Miami exile since the early 1960s.

At the time of his death, he was publisher of a weekly anti-Communist newspaper which he used to attack enemies of all political stripes. In Cuba, he had commanded a private army which was said to have killed hundreds of Batista foes in the late 1950s.

Masferrer was killed because of his "systematic work in the destruction of the anti-Communist struggle," and his ties to the Cuban G-2 security apparatus, the Zero note said. The G-2 reference was not explained, but the term is used in many countries, including the United States, to designate the intelligence staff of a division or larger unit.

Zero declared that Masferrer's assassination "like that of Joe Elias de la Torriente, should serve as an example for those who disdain the cause of Cuban liberation."

Torriente was killed last year by a gunman who shot him in the back.

Associated Press

AP Wirephoto

ROLANDO MASFERRER
A bomb victim